

St. Francis of Assisi Parish's Sound Solution

When Jimmy Percaccio, of Perbro Audio Visual Communications Inc. was evaluating his options to solve a highly reverberant environment and to deliver a high quality sound system at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Toronto, Ontario, he came to realize the slim line array from TOA Canada was the long overdue solution after he evaluated many other solutions.

Located in the heart of Toronto, St. Francis of Assisi Parish was built in 1914 before the

addition of sound systems in commercial buildings. The church is 158 x 57 feet, with transepts. The ceilings are high, 75 feet, and the flooring is tile. The building was constructed from concrete and plaster with marble accessories. This historic church was designed in such a way that sounds would travel throughout the building, making the building easily excited with above normal high reverberation.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish had an acoustical environment that was inhospitable to a sound system. How is a sound system adapted to an environment that was designed for a priest's voice to carry throughout the church? Father Gregory Bottle did not want to lose the characteristics of the church's environment, but wanted to keep the reverberation low. A live room is ok, reverb is not.

Father Gregory Bottle and his congregation needed to update their existing sound system. The existing system didn't have intelligibility and did not offer the church the clarity that they desired. St. Francis of Assisi Parish hired Perbro Audio Visual Communications Inc. to research and source demonstrations of a sound system that would easily adapt to the unique characteristics of this highly reverberant church, while working within a strict budget. The church and Perbro Audio Visual Communications Inc. wanted a product that sounded great, was the right product for the church's application, and that would allow minimal service calls. Perbro Audio Visual Communications Inc.



St. Francis' acoustical environment was enhanced by TOA's slim line array

brought in several competing companies to demonstrate their products and how they would solve the church's intelligibility issue. TOA Canada Corporation was among these companies, highlighting their Slim Line Array Speakers, working in conjunction with TOA's 9000 Series - Digital Matrix Mixer/Amplifiers, DA-Series - Multi-Channel Digital Amplifiers, BG-Series - Modular Mixer/Amplifier, Paging Speakers and Wireless Microphone System. After an overwhelming demonstration experience, Mr. Percaccio came to realize the slim line array speakers from TOA Canada was the long overdue solution. "I was impressed that TOA's slim line array speakers kept the reverb times as low as possible," expressed Mr. Percaccio.

According to Mr. Percaccio, TOA's slim line array delivered an overwhelming audio experience for both the priest and his congregation of 1000. TOA's slim line array construction and characteristics resist floor and ceiling originating reflections, enhancing clarity. TOA's slim line arrays offered flexibility in installation and were easily adapted to the characteristics of the unique church environment.

Installing TOA's slim line array speakers was quite easy considering the challenging environment. The speakers were mounted on the support beams throughout the church. The beams were constructed of concrete and marble and had to be drilled. TOA's speakers were easily mounted onto these beams and blended into the church's environment. TOA's speakers were not

placement sensitive and were very forgiving in this environment. "I am very impressed with the outcome of this application. We were able to solve the challenge of an acoustical environment that is inhospitable to a sound system," stated Mr. Percaccio.

Mr. Percaccio was impressed with the outstanding level of service and support provided by TOA Canada. Starting from the performing demonstration where the product delivered a high quality sound performance, to the many hours that the technical team spent fine tuning the system.

"I wouldn't have bought the product if the support had not been there," explained Jimmy Percaccio "The confidence I got from TOA is support."

TOA Canada's Technical Department assisted Perbro Audio Visual Communications Inc. with the system design and the fine tuning that comes with every installation. It was important that the speakers would keep the sound pressure on the seats so the sound would not reflect off the walls, floor or ceiling and increase the reverb time. TOA's slim line array product fits this application, with a narrow vertical dispersion pattern.

Perbro Audio Visual Communications Inc. is a very reputable company located in Woodbridge, Ontario and has been installing, selling and repairing commercial audio systems for nearly 20 years. Mr. Percaccio was very happy with the support of TOA's technical team, especially Paul Rennick, who was instrumental in designing and overseeing the implementation of the system.

Needless to say, this is not the first, nor will it be the last installation where TOA's products meet the existing challenge. TOA Canada's slim line array speaker was able to complement the church without taking away its historic characteristics. "I knew from the beginning, that this would be a challenging installation. This isn't the ultimate solution, but it works really well. TOA's audio products has made a congregation of 1000, incredibly happy," cited Jimmy Percaccio.